[31st July 1952

Maintenance of drinking-water ponds in villages.

*63 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether drinking-water ponds in villages are maintained by the Revenue department or the district boards; and

(b) whether capital works relating to these ponds are financed by the State under the Rural Water-supply Scheme and whether such works are executed by the Revenue department or the district board (Highways Department)?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (a) Drinking-water ponds in villages are maintained by the concerned district boards. But the deepening of ponds in South Arcot district was attended to by the Revenue department, as a special case, in 1951 as the district was affected by adverse seasonal conditions.

" (b) The capital works relating to these ponds are not financed as a rule by the State under the Rural Water-supply Scheme but attended to by the district boards concerned."

Rural dispensaries in the State.

*64 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of rural dispensaries in the State which are not working for want of doctors;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide doctors for these dispensaries;

(c) whether there is any proposal to constitute a panel of rural medical practitioners, one for each district, consisting of retired men and other practitioners of all systems of medicine with a view to invite suitable hands to fill up the above vacancies for specific periods; and

(d) to lay on the table of the House a list of Mobile Medical and Health Units in this State for rural service?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (a) Fifty dispensaries of Modern Medicine and forty-one dispensaries of indigenous Medicine.

" (b) The subsidy to rural medical practitioners was increased from 7th July 1949 as follows:—

	Plains.	Agency tracts.
Licentiates—	From Rs. 600 to Rs. 780.	From Rs. 720 to Rs. 900.
Graduates—	From Rs. 720 to 900.	From Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,080.

The question of further enhancement of subsidy is now under consideration. In addition to the Government subsidy, the local bodies also give in some deserving cases additional subsidy up to 50 per cent of the Government subsidy from their own funds.